

After writing to you by post I ought not to have
sent this sheet which was commenced before but
was too lazy or too busy to write a few minutes
extra writing. Ray
[pardon its staleness] Bristol October 1 - 1850.

My dear Miss Weston,

Your name was for so many weeks
the daily companion of our journeyings,
the ^{mingle} regard & reverence in which I have
long held you ^{very} strengthened & augmented
by the ^{various} connections in which you were
brought before us, that it has been no
slight effort of self-denial to me to allow
six weeks to elapse since our separation
from your sisters without seeking a
direct channel for communications with
you. You owe your exemption ^{until now} from the
inflictions of a long letter from a new cor-
respondent, ~~at least~~ I fear to the number of
engagements that have fallen to my lot,
than to consideration for you, which ^{might}
have sufficed to check my intrenching upon
time which is so largely demanded by your
arduous unceasing duties. The conviction
however that the pressure of your labors
after the arrival of the Box from Bristol
will be far too weighty to give any lengthened
communications a chance of being read thro',
induces me to dispose at once of all the
business points, instead of risking their

being dragged in at the end, like a true
"lady's postscript," & being overlooked after
your patience had been exhausted by
the torrent that would pour down upon
you if I once ventured to unloose in
utterance the thoughts that are perpetually
clothing themselves in ^{the form of} imaginary letters
to you. So I will begin by saying that
~~we~~ have received 3 donations in money
for the Bazaar (Mr. St. Thomas will account
to you for what has passed thro' her hands)
of £1 each. One of these, from Mr. Hayes
of Bath was expended in Horriton lace
& the other two in a set of books which will
be found labelled "from Mr. Gen. Dighton
& Mr. St. Dighton", & which are designed to
stand in a little wooden book-stand
which my Aunt & I have been ornamenting
with leather, & which will be found in
the box appropriated to these ^{specimens of the} works. The
wooden frame was paid for out of part of
the donation. And while I am mentioning
this lady's name may I ask you whenever
you ^{next} send Reports or Liberty Bells to inscribe
her name in one, & that of Mr. Hayes in
another. The Report would perhaps be more
telling with her than the Liberty Bell, people

here want instruction such as it affords,
& when it comes to them in the form of a
present from America they will study
it. Mrs H. is the wife of an old gentleman,
a liberal clergyman of the Church of
England; they are rare examples of people
holding that position & keeping up a
sympathy in every philanthropic move-
ment tho' carried on by wholly or partially
by "Dissenters". She is a sister of Sir Henry
Lawrence, & Captain L., one of whom is a
leading character in the Indian army, &
the other has been twice a prisoner during
the wars. Mrs H. however has more sympathy
with peace than war principles, tho' she spent
the first 15 years of her life in following
the camp. I only entered into this ^{lengthened} description
(which is not very business like) to show that
whatever keeps up interest in Anti Slavery
topics in a quarter where no one but our-
selves are likely to introduce it, will not
be wasted. For somewhat similar reasons
I mentioned Mr Dighton, as she has
most uniformly given proof of her warm

interest ever since we had the opening
for awakening in some years ago by the
her the things prepared for the Bazaar; &
she too has no other channel for becoming
acquainted with the history of the movement
than we can furnish. She is ready to purchase
any books I mention to her & has become
a subscriber to the North Star. She is too
old & infirm to be likely to live many years
to continue the aid she would gladly offer.
It seems to think giving money a very low
way of serving such a cause, tho' the only
one open to her as she "cannot" make the
clergy or the people about her concern
themselves in it. I will enclose a letter
lately received from her with some others
which have come to hand since our letter
from the Continent, some of which may repay
the trouble of perusal. but which I
will ^{send} ~~enclose~~ just to show you how different
minds here write & think upon the theme
which so deeply absorbs you. Mr. Maffie
I hope you will not pass over, for she expresses
powerfully a very prevailing state of feeling
^{among us} ~~among us~~. The rest of my business communicates
has reference to the things that my Aunt
& I have been preparing, & others who have

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But I must not delay answering your
 enquiry about our acquaintance with Mr
 Geo. Thompson, & telling you how much
 we have sympathised with you first in
 your pleasure at having him with you
 & subsequently at the disappointment
 of your highly wrought anticipations of
 the Faneuil Hall meeting. My Father
 must treat that occasion in its political
 & Anti Slavery bearings, to Mr May, I am
 only alluding to your personal experience.
 We have seen, heard, & known too much
 of Mr Thompson not to entertain a
 sufficiently high appreciation of his
 eloquence, & his disinterested philanthropy
 to prevent our quarrelling with or wondering
 at your disposition to burn incense
 before him. You pointed to us long ago
 the influence his appeals had exerted
 on your early anti slavery career, & it wd
 be strange if so many years of faithful
 obedience to that call on the part of
 each had not made you prize him
 more than when the work to which he

undoubtedly you was intruded ground. We
are longing for later intelligence of his
course; it was trying to break off with the
bare report of the disturbance. I have to
wait a fortnight for further details; I've
cannot help having a peculiar anxiety to
know how you have fared in the midst
of the excitement. There was a strong mis-
giving on my mind after receiving your
account of the enthusiasm awakened
by Mr Thompson's arrival that the next
reports of you would record symptoms of
"nerves," "valerian," or "night fits" that
Emma used to give strange accounts of.
But since the account of the failure of
the Reception Meeting my fears of their
interfering with your ^{anticipated} ~~hopes~~ ^{for} ~~break~~
have almost changed into hopes that
they may have prevented your being
present. My Father's first comments on
the disturbance, I think, were a hope
that "his friend" had come to no harm; Mr
Miss Weston actually writes word that
she is jealous of your retaining that position
a spirit which he rebukes in strains

which I must leave her to repeat. How far you may now consider the distinction an inviolable one since he has so entirely dispelled your illusion of his being a "grave & dignified gentleman" is a view of the subject which I have tried with but little effect to impress upon him. He says it is hopeless to keep up false colors, since I would be so silly as to go to Paris to lose all the prestige ^{with} which imagination & distance had invested us; that Emma will take care to acquaint you with his infirmities at any rate, so he may as well lay aside all disguise in his communications ^{with} you. I wonder what were your sensations on reading that very remarkable letter of his, what you could have thought of his 'breaking off in the description of the loss of his thermometer in a tunnel from the', professed violence of his emotions. We shew at least great confidence in you having no objection to nonsense, or at all events forbearance enough to

accept it as graciously as graver things.
Sometimes I have a shrinking from
writing it when it has a long journey
to take, ^{much} ~~this~~ to uncertainty ⁱⁿ what circum-
stances it may find the recipient; yet
would be taking too gloomy a view of life
to presume upon their being undisturbed
to deriving amusement from it, because
we cannot be assured of the contrary. It
is still very difficult to me to realize that
I am arrived at such a point as to write
it to you; for I must try dear Miss Weston
to convince you that my love for you
did not originate in your sisters'
partiality for you; that their vivified
& ~~addition~~ added new charms to the
image I had long cherished. But your
letters & your reports, & Mr May, had ~~at~~
created this image; & your struggle for
truth & honesty in the perilous days of
your Society had inspired me with reverence.
& I have never read the "Comer's" with
feeling that it was the record of an actual
struggle, wondering if ^{we} ~~it~~ have had strength
to come ~~off~~ forth conquerors, & being thankful

~~What~~ that my faith has not been put to so
 even a test. (Without any increased self-
 confidence, however, I have come now to the
 conclusion that I could, for that the bitterness
 of the trial would consist so entirely in the
 discovery that the living voice which had
 spoken to my heart in the cherished hallows
 spot must no longer be my guide, that
 the separation from the House where all
 painful associations would be kept alive
 would be a relief.) But I must not run on
 upon this theme wh^{ch} is one of the many "things
not on the surface"; on wh^{ch} I w^d gladly have you
 converse with me. I only meant to touch upon
 some of my grounds for regarding you with
 affection & reverence, just to show you the
 sense of humiliation I experienced on a
 perusal of your first letter, to find that
 I had allowed you to speak of the "hon^{or}" of my
friendship, without a single word of retri-
 bution against its inappropriate & terms.
 While you are modestly proclaiming against
 having goods under false pretences I am con-
 tentedly profiting by them; for I am sure that

you are under a great delusion respecting my
powers, attainments, virtues. The fact of
my life being expended in supplementing
my Father, filling up & finishing off his
undertakings as the only way of saving
his strength for executing them, has pre-
cluded my having any very independent
existence, or bringing to any sort of perfection
any single acquirement, useful or ornamental.
While this same circumstance, from ^{its} making
me conversant with detached ^{dispartments} ~~branches~~
of different subjects, misleads people into
the notion that an equal & general enlighten-
ment pertains to me, instead of the striking
ignorance of most of the branches of know-
ledge with which educated people are familiar.
The acquaintance we have with Antislavery
history has I am persuaded taken you in
in this manner, & the sooner you are un-
deceived the better. Mr Chapman laboured
under the same error at first, & gravely
asked me my opinion of the distribution
^{in England} of land & question, ~~in~~ just as if I had been
Lord J. Russell or Mr Cobden! So I had to disabuse
her with all speed of the notion that I had
anything more than thoughts & feelings

upon that and most other complicated
questions; it revived my shame (as you
do by your deference) at venturing to give
forth my crude unarranged ideas upon
themes which you have pondered so deeply
& dispose of so argumentatively. Now
this is relieving myself by telling you what
I have not got; tho' it still gives you but
an inadequate notion of the very little
I have remembered of the little I have read,
for it would need a sketch of my life, which
has been a somewhat unusual one, to
make you understand the causes & extent
of my ignorance of most things & conversance
with a few. I would willingly go on to tell
you what this same life has imparted
to me, as I have faith in your being ready
to accord me ^{the} sympathy that I especially
covet, as coming from you, in those channels.
But in the fear that I shall have to break
off in the midst of this self-indulgent strain
of egotism without having discharged
the official obligations (wh^{ch} have been
reduced to a minimum for your sake
we more than any others) as I know how

exhausted you will be with Bazaarable when this reaches you). I must just fulfil a promise made to a little boy named Reginald Ames, that I would rectify an error into which I had fallen, when next I wrote to America, by explaining that his name ought to have been appended to a certain blue knitted scarf which I thought came from his German governess, & which was wrapped round a wooden tray, conveyed by Mr Thompson. Now my conscience is at ease on the score of the little child, who I find was so shocked at his own neglect when he saw the work of his cousins, the Armstrongs going to the Bazaar, that he went home to prepare this offering. All things going on here in the Anti-Slavery line I have left my Father to tell Mr May. I have only to add for your special benefit, ^{as before} Miss Wigham gave me one of your letters to her having proved helpful in overcoming prejudices about aiding the Bazaar, especially in Perth. She says they are now trying to draw forth an equivalent from those who will not work this year, not meaning that any shall escape helping in some way. What the present agitation was a favorable

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passed thro' my hands. We may seem very
stupid & very ignorant, but being peculiarly
inexperienced in the purchase of the selling
of such articles as are sent to you we cannot
tell what prices to put on them, & therefore
only mark the donors name on fancy work
&c. ^{by} The leather work we know nothing
by which to measure its saleable value;
& therefore have marked prices adjudged as
the lowest legitimate ones by a dealer
in basket work & fancy goods, & by other
authorities. Perhaps if it is a novelty
with you as it is here these may not
seem high, but we have only put these
figures as a matter of duty towards
you; ^{and} ~~but~~ now you have them as elements
of guidance pray deal with them as you
see fit, but by all means spare Mr Phillips
& Mr Quincy any distress of mind that
might accrue from your refusal "to
lower the prices" in order to dispose
of the goods. One flower pot is valued
at rather less than it w^d. have been had
not the wood at the bottom split since

it was ornamented. They are designed
to hold a common flower pot with
a growing plant. We have put our
names very minutely to each specimen
not to blazon ourselves but to prove
that the work is amateur, everything but
the frame work being our own performance.
(the varnishing which we were too
much hurried to undertake, but which
is generally done by the ornamenters
themselves.) There is one more request
I am going to make about lending acknow-
-ledgements of donations, that is that you
would write the name of ^{Mr} Wm Ayres (cabinet
maker) on some little pamphlet. He
devotes himself to packing & preparing every
thing requiring ^{for that purpose} skill with the greatest zeal
& gives up time that could be very profitably
employed in his business for the object,
tho' he never, till seeing some of our trays,
could think of anything small enough
to make itself handy." The Blind pupils
too deserve a recognition of the extra labor
they bestow on their work, the materials for
which they provide themselves, & the whole

of which is prepared in their hours of recreation. Their interest in the cause never flags tho' they meet with no encouragement from their Committee of Management. They always apply to me when we meet for any news I can give them of what is going on in Boston & other parts, & are eager to know about F. Douglass, & W. W. Brown & any one whom they have heard speak on the Slavery subject. My Aunt hopes to have time to send you a few lines herself about the portfolios. She modestly hesitated to ~~encroach~~^{on} your time even by a short note just now, but I have assured her it will involve no trouble if you do not feel called upon to write in reply, which is a stipulation we both much make that we may feel at ease in vol-
-untarily these various communications. Anything I may have omitted shall be added when Mr. H. Thomas writes, the box is near closing & my Father's continued indisposition has prevented my finishing up this packet at an earlier

now. With kind regards from Mr.
Believe me dear Miss Weston -

Very sincerely yours

Mary Estlin

Monday morn^g

Oct. 7. 1850.

In descending on our gratification
at being possessed with your reply to
Miss Wigham I trust it was apparent
what our sentiments were with regard
to your treatment of the difficult case
It seemed to leave nothing unsaid that
ought to be wanted, but how far those
who read it will be capable of appreciating
diminishing your own liberality I do
not venture to predict. I forwarded
your manuscript to Mrs Chapman
according to your direction. We are
longing to hear some tidings of your
late travelling companions; & they on
me a letter as I have written to them
all round since hearing from them
I am glad my Father was able to write
sufficiently to make you aware how
intimate a member of our party you

constituted, because it with some
further explanation of my otherwise
unwarrantable familiarity. Any thing
beautiful in art or nature aroused longing
for "Annie" to gaze on it with us; any subject
of interest was sure to be "just what Annie
would enjoy," where we argued Annie was
wanted to help accord or help convince;
in many things where we were at issue
as with Mr Chapman and Miss Weston
it was hinted we should find a sym-
-thizer in "Annie." So you may fancy
I have no slight anxiety to commence
with you on these themes, & mean to
embrace the first opportunity of imposing
them upon you, or in default of any
ostensible opening, to create one.

I have no slight anxiety to communicate
 with you on these themes, because I
 believe the first opportunity of doing
 upon you, or in default of you
 I shall be obliged to write you

Mary Callan 1850

Ms. E. 2. 11. 15. Dec. 12.

Oct. 7.

Ms. E. 2. 11. 14.

Nov. 14.

1850

Mr E's letter which was
with these I have sent
to Mr Ford.

Miss Anne W. Weston.

Weymouth.

Mass.

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